

Town Council Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2011
6:30 pm

Rebecca Mann
Dean Geracimos
Frank Vari
Frank Hill, Mayor
Valerie Walls, Clerk/Treasurer

Rich Taylor, arrived late
Ron Francis
Sharon Weygand, Town Administrator

Mayor Hill brought the meeting to order at 6:30pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes from February 14, 2011

MOTION: Frank Vari made a motion, Ron Francis seconded to accept the minutes from February 14, 2011. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Announcements:

Frank Vari: Wanted to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day

Dean Geracimos: Parks & Rec will be having an Easter Egg Hunt at 1pm on April 16th. Little League Parade will also be on the 16th in the morning.

The Public Hearing will be opened after the Commissioner's Reports.

Commissioner Reports:

- Ron Francis Public Works- a lateral problem at the Elementary School, a sink hole between two manhole covers. School is having their plumber work it out. Two new pumps for the EQ tanks will be installed shortly. Pulled main pump at Bank Street to have cleaned. Repair work on the back up pump. Well #2 on south side is losing flow, possible iron build-up. Have not heard anything from the fiber optic people. Water & Sewer committee will meet on the 21st, new signs have been ordered for around town to replace the missing/broken wooden ones.
- Rebecca Mann Public Safety – Sgt Leas report attached, Ron to email Sgt Leas the Event Schedule so he can plan accordingly.
Charter
Ethics
- Rich Taylor Financial
Historic
- Frank Vari Planning & Zoning
Parking Committee-No meeting this month
5K Run/Walk – working on the June race
Recycling
- Dean Geracimos Parks & Recreation
Docks
Little League – largest turnout ever, preparing for Opening Day on April 16th.
Chamber of Commerce Meeting Wednesday night at 5:30.
Continued work on the 'Drive 35' campaign. The middle/high school is supporting, Channel 48 is coming down next week.
Council needed to signed letters for delivery to county and state officials.

Office Reports

- Sharon Weygand Town Administrator – out on medical leave
- Valerie Walls Clerk/Treasurer – P&L Report attached
- Frank Hill Mayor – discussion regarding letter to Mr. Beers on discounted hook-up fees and Town support. It was agreed to wait and hear what is brought to the P&Z meeting on Thursday before a decision is determined. The hook-up fees will go into the capital fund to allow us to make repairs and to hook up water on the north side from Artesian.

MOTION: Frank Vari made a motion, Dean Geracimos seconded, to delay the letter until the P&Z meeting on Thursday. All in favor, motion carried.

Note: Mayor requests that Council attends Thursday's meeting to see what is planned.

Public Hearing Regarding Water & Sewer Rate Increase

MOTION: Ron Francis made a motion, Rich Taylor seconded to go into the Public Hearing to discuss the water and sewer rate increase. All in favor, motion carried.

There will be continued work on changing the water and sewer ordinance in regards to the way the residents are charged and the way we bill for connections. It is the hope of the mayor to have the new ordinance in place by the July 2011 billing. More to follow.

The increase proposed this year will not affect the resident billing. With the commercial accounts using 24% of the water and paying on 9% of the costs, it's been suggested to move the burden to the commercial accounts. Smaller businesses using less than 40,000 gallons a year will change to a resident rate. This will affect 19 businesses. 21 businesses will be using the new proposed rates.

Frank Vari is requesting that in the future, Public Hearings not to be held on the same day as a voting session.

MOTION: Rebecca Mann makes a motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:02pm, Ron Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business

- Parking Lot under the bridge
- Speed Reduction on 213 – Dean thanks the Guardian paper for the coverage on this issue.
- Trash/Recycling/Yard Waste Bids – March Workshop – Council has received copies of the bids that have come in; please review them before the workshop for discussion. Will vote at the April Council meeting.

New Business:

- Stop sign Biddle St & Lock St. – Ron will send an email requesting the stop sign and check on the progress of the sign at Third and George. The Town Attorney has recommended not to put up a sign without SHA approval.
- Chesapeake City Tourism Month – (May) Council is in agreement, will vote in April
- Grass Cutting Bid – Bids are ready to be picked up, and will be posted in the Guardian. Bids are due on April 1st and Council will have copies in their mail boxes. Please review, a vote is requested at the April meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Board of Appeals Candidate
Two candidates: Cindy Ortt and Bobby Walls. Council wants to thank both for submitting letters of interest and whomever does not get the position, to please consider other open spots on other committees.

MOTION: Rebecca Mann made a motion, Frank Vari seconded to appoint Cindy Ortt to the open position on the Board of Appeals. Aye: 3 (R Mann, F Vari, R Taylor) Nay 2 (D Geracimos, R Francis) Motion carried.

Note: Rebecca Mann will be working on a policy for the submittals of Volunteers for committee vacancies.

- Water & Sewer Rate Increase Resolution NO.: 3-14-11

MOTION: Rebecca Mann made a motion, Rich Taylor seconded, to accept the scenario number one for establishing the water and sewer rate increase. Aye: 4 (R Mann, R Taylor, R Francis, F Vari)

Nay: 1 (D Geracimos).

Note: Frank Vari would like an agreement from Council not to have both the Public Hearing and the vote on the same day.

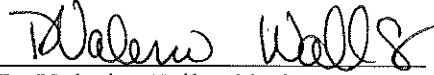
- Event Forms C, D, E, F:
 - Pet Parade November 19th
 - Halloween Fall fest/Pumpkin Carving October 16th
 - Christmas Tree Lighting November 25th
 - Candlelight Tour December 10th

MOTION: Frank Vari made a motion, Ron Francis seconded to approve theses events contingent upon the insurance being provided at the proper time. All in favor, motion carried.

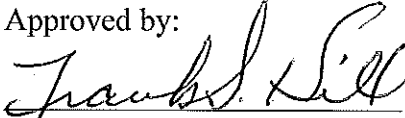
PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

MOTION: Rebecca Man made a motion, Frank Vari seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by:


D. Valerie Walls, Clerk Treasurer

Approved by:


Frank Hill, Mayor